

**AGENDA
MAINE STATE HARNESS RACING COMMISSION
MEETING**

January 17, 2020

Gambling Control Board Conference Room

Department of Public Safety

45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine

Starting Time 9:00 a.m.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order and Introductions:** Michael Timmons, Chair
2. **Review and Approval of Minutes**
Review and Approval of Decision and Orders
3. **Adjudicatory Hearings:**
 - a. **RE: Request to reopen the 2020 Race Date Assignment Hearing:** The Maine Harness Horsemen's Association and the Maine Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association have requested that the Commission reopen the 2020 Race Date Award Hearing for the purpose of addressing an eleven-day period between July 30 and August 9 in which the Commission awarded 16 cards between three different licensees.
 - b. **RE: Kim Ireland, Complaint Number 2019 MSHRC 09.** Mr. Ireland is alleged to have violated MSHRC Rules Chapter 7 and 11. Mr. Ireland is the trainer of record for the horse, "Saratoga Liz". A blood sample obtained from Saratoga Liz following the Third Race at Farmington Fair on September 17, 2019 showed an elevated level of Acepromazine.
 - c. **RE: Benson Merrill, Complaint Number 2019 MSHRC 13.** Mr. Merrill is alleged to have violated MSHRC Rules Chapter 7 and 11. Mr. Merrill is the trainer of record for the horse, "Made Of Iron". A blood sample obtained from Made Of Iron following the Third Race at Scarborough Downs on November 14, 2019 showed an elevated level of Phenylbutazone.
 - d. **RE: Benson Merrill, Complaint Number 2019 MSHRC 14.** Mr. Merrill is alleged to have violated MSHRC Rules Chapter 7 and 11. Mr. Merrill is the trainer of record for the horse, "Must Be The Bunny". A blood sample obtained from Must Be The Bunny following the Fourth Race at Scarborough Downs on November 14, 2019 showed an elevated level of Phenylbutazone.
4. **Approval of Maine Harness Horsemen's Association Annual Budget.** Title 8, Section 272-B, provides that up to 3% of the funds that are allocated to supplement purses may be paid to a statewide association of horsemen if that association prepares and approves an annual budget and submits it to the Commission. The Maine Harness Horsemen's Association has prepared and approved a 2020 budget for the Commission's consideration.
5. **Update/Public Input on Department Efforts to Implement a Live Racing Facility Inspection Program.** The Department will update the Commission about its efforts to

implement a live racing facility inspection program. In addition, the Department invites input from the Commission and the public relative to the scope of the inspections.

6. **Department Request for Commission Authorization to Expend Funds on Marketing for the 2020 Race Season.** The Commission authorized the Department to expend marketing funds during the 2017, 2018 and 2019 racing seasons. There is optimism that the recent marketing efforts are beginning to pay dividends. The Department will present a proposed budget for marketing in 2020 that seeks to increase marketing expenditures in an effort to build on the progress made to date and grow the industry.
7. **Report on Classified Racing.** At the May 17, 2019 meeting, the Commission discussed classified racing and reaffirmed its support for conducting it during the 2019 race season. The Commission further requested that the Department provide a report on classified racing when the season concludes. The Department will share statistics and feedback with the Commission at this time.
8. **Overview/Update on Prohibited Substance Testing.** Miles Greenleaf will give an overview/update of the prohibited substance testing results.
9. **Other Business**
10. **Public Comment**
11. **Schedule of Future Meetings:**
February 21, 2020
12. **Adjourn**